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### BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING – JULY 2016

**Meeting.** The Board of Corrections met July 8, 2016, at the Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP) in Ft. Madison. Director Jerry Bartruff updated the Board on significant activities:

- Initial information is being developed in regard to the changes made by [HF 2064](#) (Child Endangerment Resulting in Death Act) and the possibility of early release for nonviolent drug offenders. Approximately 350 offenders may be affected by this legislation, and the majority score low on risk assessment tools.
- All of the Community-Based Corrections (CBC) district directors met on June 16 at the Central Office to discuss risk assessment issues and the FY 2017 budget.
- Director Bartruff attended a Voices to be Heard group meeting in Des Moines. This is a group that has family members who are incarcerated. One goal of attending this meeting is to learn what barriers to communication exist so that they can be fixed.
- On June 27, an inmate walked away from the Newton Correctional Release Center. In response, there was interagency collaboration including the Jasper County Sheriff's Office, the State Patrol, the Warrant Team, and the Newton facility Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT). The inmate was found in a very short time.
- A few long-term employees have retired from the Iowa Medical and Classification Center representing 140 years of experience.
- Through collaboration with Iowa State University, new uniforms were designed for the employees of Hancher Auditorium at the University of Iowa. The uniforms are being made by inmates at the Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville.
- Board members inquired about the status of the litigation regarding the Iowa State Penitentiary. Director Bartruff stated that he has had discussions with Director Janet Phipps of the Department of Administrative Services and that they are aware of issues still surfacing due to bad design and poor work by contractors. He has not heard a lot in regard to resolutions. There was approximately \$260,000 left over in the construction budget and that is being used to deal with some of the problems that have popped up.

**Budget Update.** According to Director Bartruff FY 2016 is ending on a good note due to good management across all areas. There was \$1.9 million in a supplemental appropriation that is mainly being used at the Clarinda and Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facilities due to shortfalls relating to the closure of the Mental Health Institutes and shared costs between the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Department of Human Services.

**Telephone Rebate Expenditures.** Moneys from the Telephone Rebate Expenditure account are invested into educational programming. The cost of telephone calls has been lowered to 11 cents per minute to comply with a recent ruling by the Federal Communications Commission relating to nationwide prison phone call costs. This change will impact the amount of funds available in the future. At the end of FY 2016, there was \$681,000 in the account. The Board approved moving \$527,000 from the Telephone Rebate Expenditure Account to educational programs. This supplements the General Fund appropriation for educational programs. Community Colleges are contracted to provide training and education programs at the prisons. Concern was expressed that approximately \$200,000 of the funds are used to pay for the salary of the Apprenticeship Program Administrator and for the salary of the person overseeing the Telephone Program. There is also concern that the amount of funds available will decline in the future because of the reduced telephone call cost. Director Bartruff acknowledged that the funds

will be decreasing, and in the future the DOC may not be able to support all of the education and apprenticeship programs that they do now.

**Iowa State Penitentiary Long-Term Restrictive Housing Program.** Staff recently attended a national conference and learned that the ISP is ahead of many other states in addressing this issue. There is a large nationwide movement to get offenders out of disciplinary units by correcting the behaviors and integrating them back into the general population. The ISP is following the Federal Department of Justice principles, including articulating the specific reason for an offenders' placement and the set of expectations for that offender to advance. Privileges are granted as the offender progresses. The current program at ISP has been to work with a group of 7-8 offenders for three months, and they are moving to a more fluid program with offenders moving in and out of the Program as they advance. This ties the offender into the work, and the outcome is driven by the offender and how much of an effort they make. The last phase of the Program is to get them back into the general population. Supplemental material, such as anger management and communication skills, are provided. The offender doesn't have a choice of whether to participate. The physical layout at the ISP lends itself to working with offenders in this Program, and inmates from other institutions are being sent to ISP for this. Correctional officers have input into the Program, with efforts being made to change the culture, both at the offender level and at the officer level.

**Aging/Mental Illness/Pharmacy Costs.** Dr. Harbans Deol discussed the ongoing challenges to the Correctional System with an increasingly older population exhibiting greater health care and mental illness needs. Currently, there are 4,220 offenders diagnosed with chronic diseases, 973 of these are over the age of 54. During the first half of FY 2016, offenders over the age of 54 accounted for 22.9% of the medical costs incurred in the prison system. Other facts Dr. Deol shared included:

- 10.0% of the Iowa prison population has Hepatitis C.
- There are 154 prisoners diagnosed with cancer.
- The costs of generic drugs are increasing.
- Court cases may dictate in the future what treatment is given to prisoners.

**Other Items.** Warden Nick Ludwick discussed a documentary that has been filmed about the transition from the old ISP to the new facility. A lot of interviews were conducted with both offenders and staff. The Board will receive more information regarding the documentary when it is released.

**Next Meeting.** The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 4 in Newton. For additional information, see the DOC website: <http://www.doc.state.ia.us/BoardOfCorrections>.

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